



MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

*Published quarterly by the
Maryland Ornithological Society
2101 Bolton Street, Baltimore 17, Maryland*

Volume 11

SEPTEMBER 1955

Number 3

THE SEASON -- JULY THROUGH DECEMBER 1954

Chandler S. Robbins

The fall of 1954 was noted primarily for the incursion of northern avian visitors, and secondarily for the passage of a full scale hurricane across our State. These two events overshadowed the routine departures of our nesting birds and the arrivals of the normal transients and winter residents from the north.

Both the influx of northern birds and the effects of hurricane Hazel (and her sisters Carol and Edna), have left us much to speculate upon. Reference to Joseph Hickey's table of wildlife cycles (A guide to bird watching, pp. 76-77) and consideration of additional records subsequent to 1941 will show that we were about 'due' for a flight of Goshawks (9 to 10 year cycle), a flight of Northern Shrikes (4 to 5 year cycle), and possibly a flight of Pine Grosbeaks (5 to 6 year cycle). This also happened to be the one year in every 2 or 3 that Red-breasted Nuthatches are with us in numbers. But who could have anticipated the invasion of northern chickadees--the greatest influx on record for the Black-capped Chickadee in Maryland, and the first appearance in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia of the Brown-capped Chickadee, a species which seldom leaves the northern spruce-fir forests! A few Black-caps can be found in our northeasternmost counties every year or two in mid-winter, and occasionally one or two individuals reach the central counties. The only previous great flight or which we have record is the one that occurred in the spring of 1885. Roger Peterson in "Birds over America" tells of spectacular appearances of the Black-capped Chickadee in city parks, and other areas where they do not ordinarily occur, in New York and New England in 1916-17 and 1941-42 (and a few Brown-capped Chickadees with them), but if these flights reached our latitude they went unrecorded. We may also ask why Maryland had a good flight of Evening Grosbeaks and a sprinkling of White-winged Crossbills. These undependable species defy explanation.

There was a widespread belief that the numerous late records of stunned, tame or tailless Yellow-billed Cuckoos seen in nearly all parts of Maryland for two to three weeks following the passage of Hazel had been borne northward by this hurricane. Perhaps they were. However logical this conclusion may seem, it is confounded by reports from northern New England that many Yellow-billed Cuckoos were carried north of their breeding range during or before hurricane Edna in mid-September. Edna, you may recall, remained well offshore until she hit Long Island, which is near the northern limit of the nesting range of this cuckoo. If Edna actually deposited cuckoos in Maine and even on the Gaspé Peninsula, where did she pick them up? (For hurricane routes and cuckoo records see pages 5-7 of the February 1955 issue of Audubon Field Notes.) It is quite possible that we must search still deeper if we are to discover the true solution to the problem. In the meantime, we must simply point out with caution that Hazel may not have been entirely to blame for the cuckoos that we had associated with her passage.

We are accustomed to associating the better flights of fall migrants with clear skies, low temperatures, and northwest winds. The first appearances of Black-capped Chickadees and Evening Grosbeaks, however, showed no such correlation with local weather conditions. We know, of course, that many individuals of a species migrate under conditions other than those we humans believe to be most stimulating to them. Perhaps it is only a coincidence that the Black-caps arrived here under conditions not especially conducive to southward migration. On the other hand, it makes one wonder whether a species which has not migrated for several generations is as responsive to weather conditions as are the more regular migrants.

Mention should be made in passing that precipitation continued low except in August and in October (as a result of Hazel). At the end of the latter month Loch Raven and Pretty Boy Reservoirs held the lowest combined water reserve since the latter impoundment was first flooded 21 years ago. These conditions should have produced some interesting shore-bird records; we suspect that lack of coverage was responsible for the lack of reports.

The usual assortment of record early arrivals and record late departures was reported, and there were also the expected number of first occurrences for some eastern counties. The more routine listing of arrival and departure dates is given in tables 1 and 2. Only the five best covered counties are included. Although these tables contain observations from two or three dozen observers, the following people contributed the majority of the reports: Dr. and Mrs. John W. Richards for Frederick County; Stephen Simon, Charles Buchanan, and Douglas Hackman for Baltimore; Chandler Robbins, Robert Stewart, and Lewis Oring for Prince Georges; Mrs. Gail Tappan, Mrs. W. L. Henderson and Father Edward Stoeher for Anne Arundel; and Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Hewitt, Alicia Knotts, and A. May Thompson for Caroline.

Loons, Petrels, Herons. Single Red-throated Loons seen on Sept. 24 on the Chester River and at Gibson Island are the earliest fall arrivals for Maryland (Judge and Mrs. W. L. Henderson). The most interesting hurricane casualty here was a Leach's Petrel found near Royal Oak in Talbot County on Oct. 17 (Richard L. Kleen). This is the first Maryland record away from the coast, and there are mighty few coastal records. American Egrets began to arrive at Back River in Baltimore County on June 25, when Douglas Hackman saw 3 birds there. Daily counts showed that the number built up slowly but steadily until there were 31 on Aug. 14. The latest departure reported this year was 4 individuals at Port Tobacco on Nov. 28 (Allen Stickley, Jr. and Robert Farr). Little Blue Herons, which customarily leave Maryland weeks before the other herons depart, were last seen on Sept. 3 in Caroline County, Sept. 21 in Anne Arundel County, and Sept. 14 in Charles County. The Black-crowned Night Heron is a scarce bird throughout most of Maryland, although nearly all active observers have seen at least a few in their favorite birding areas. It will surprise several of us to learn that much-worked Gibson Island did not add this species to its list until July 30 of this year (Mrs. Gail Tappan). The latest departure date for the Least Bittern was broken thrice: first at Unity on Sept. 25 (Seth H. Low); then at Patuxent Refuge on Oct. 11 (Clark Webster, Robert Stewart); and finally at Seneca, Nov. 7 (R. R. Kerr).

Waterfowl. The vanguard of Canada Geese surprised observers by winging their way into the Free State before fall had officially been ushered in by the astronomers. A flock of 23 was counted over Unity on Sept. 12 (Low), and at White Marsh a group went over the same night (Hackman). Two days later a "v" of 24 was sighted over Monkton (Stephen W. Simon). Duck populations on the whole were satisfactory. The Pintail turned up in outstanding numbers in the Chesapeake Bay region during the migration peak, but leveled off to the customary winter population.

Hawks. The fall hawk migration was not well covered in Maryland this year. Except for a number of trips to Monument Knob on South Mountain, most counts were made from the Richards home in Emmitsburg, the Hackman home in White Marsh, and the Robbins home in Laurel. The best tally was made by Mr. Hackman on the 23rd of September, when he checked off 1,399 Broad-wings, 30 Sharp-shins, 16 each of Red-tail and Sparrow Hawk, 14 Red-shoulders, 13 Ospreys, 6 Cooper's Hawks, and 2 Duck Hawks; his counts for the Broad-wing, Sparrow Hawk, and Osprey were especially noteworthy. I made the mistake of spending this day on South Mountain, where only 63 Broad-wings were spotted; if I had stayed at home I would likely have intercepted part of the White Marsh flight as it proceeded southwestward along the Fall Line. The peak Broad-wing count at Monument Knob was 829 birds on Sept. 16, and the highest at Emmitsburg was 223 on the 26th. Red-shouldered Hawks are never common constituents of a raptor flight along South Mountain or on the Allegany and Garrett County ridges; top counts of 6 (Oct. 9 at Emmitsburg) and 10 (Oct. 3 at Monument Knob) are typical. As pointed out by Hackman in the June-September 1954 issue of MARYLAND BIRDLIFE, the high proportion of Red-shouldered Hawks in October and November is typical of the Fall Line route. Doug Hackman's enlistment in the armed forces has put a temporary halt to his valuable hawk counts, so the only high Red-shoulder count of the fall came from Laurel, where 56 were seen on Oct. 24. Although there were numerous Goshawk reports from Pennsylvania, especially from Hawk Mountain, only a scattering of individuals were noted in Maryland. The first of these was spotted at Monument Knob on Oct. 30 (Elting Arnold).

Rails, Gallinules, Coots, Shorebirds. Clapper Rail observations from Gibson Island are always of interest; a lone bird was found there on Oct. 31 by Mesdames Tappan and Henderson. A Florida Gallinule at Denton on Oct. 20 (Mrs. A. J. Fletcher) added one more record to the small accumulation of fall dates for Maryland. A Coot was on the swimming hole of the Cumberland Girl Scout Camp in the Green Ridge State Forest on July 8, but disappeared after the campers arrived (Jois McCollough). There is a distinct possibility that this species will some day be found nesting in Maryland. Early and late dates were submitted for the rare Golden Plover (3 near Beltsville on Sept. 8 by F. Hermann, and 2 near Berlin on Nov. 14 by Harriet Sutton and others), but both fell approximately a week inside of the all-time extremes. Another late plover report concerned a couple of Semipalmated Plovers seen at Ocean City on Nov. 29, one day short of the record (John V. Dennis). Other notable shorebird reports include 3 migrating Upland Plover at Ridgely, Caroline Co. on Aug. 8 (Kenneth Corbett); an Emmitsburg Solitary Sandpiper on Oct. 21, late for western Maryland (John W. Richards); the first Stilt Sandpiper for Caroline County, Sept. 27-28 at Ridgely (Marvin Hewitt); from 1 to 4 Semipalmated Sandpipers at the same place, Sept. 1 to Oct. 4, also new for the county (Hewitt), and a Marbled Godwit at Sandy Point on Sept. 1 (John W. Taylor, Jr.).

Gulls, Terns and Skimmers. The first nesting of Laughing Gulls in the Maryland part of the Chesapeake was reported from Sharp's Island at the mouth of the Choptank, where both eggs and chicks were seen by a fishing party on June 6, and reported to Mrs. W. L. Henderson. Aug. 30 was a fairly early date for 2 Bonaparte's Gulls in Charles County (Allen Stickley). Caspian Terns are regular migrants in tidewater areas, but one seen at Seneca on Sept. 10 is the third record for Montgomery County (Philip A. DuMont). As many as 60 Forster's Terns and 8 Black Skimmers were still at Ocean City on Nov. 29, breaking the fall departure date for the latter species (Dennis); smaller numbers are seen there in winter from time to time.

Cuckoos. The latest departure dates on file for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo prior to this fall were Oct. 27, 1895 and Oct. 25, 1952. The peak of the southward flight has almost always passed us by the close of September. This fall there were few September reports, though this

could have been due in part to the fact that the October and November birds were so much more exciting that people didn't bother to mention those that fell in the normal period. Hurricane Hazel passed by on the late afternoon of Oct. 15, the center of the eye moving due northward across South Mountain. On Oct. 17 one Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen at Gibson Island (Varriours) and another near Laurel (Robbinses); the latter bird was sitting on the pavement and did not fly when my car passed within four feet of it. Charles Buchanan closely approached a tailless individual at Lake Roland on Oct. 31. Dr. Richards saw 2 at Emmitsburg on Oct. 28, and one the following day. For November records there were single birds at Patuxent Refuge, Nov. 3 (Leonard Llewellyn), at Denton, Nov. 6 (A. J. Fletcher), and at Monkton, Nov. 12 (Stephen W. Simon). There were also reliable reports from Allegany, Howard, and Calvert Counties for which exact details are lacking. No Black-billed Cuckoos were reported after Oct. 3, which is normal.

Owls, Swifts. The first Saw-whet Owl of the winter was found, as might be expected, in Talbot County, where George Haddaway picked one off a pine tree on Oct. 23. There may have been a major flight of these little owls on the night of Nov. 6-7, the first clear cold night after four days of wet weather; for during the night one Saw-whet was trapped at Unity (Low) and another at Laurel (Robbins). Two other reports close on the heels of these could also have been of birds which had arrived at the same time: one at Wittman on Nov. 10 (Kleen), the other at Gibson Island on the 14th (Mrs. Henderson and others). Still another was found at Kirkham, Dec. 11 (Kleen). To Joe Spurry go honors for exceeding the Chimney Swift departure record at St. Michaels on Nov. 2.

Wood Pewee, Blue Jay. Perhaps in a category with the cuckoos was a Wood Pewee seen on Nov. 3 and Nov. 4 at Gibson Island by Judge and Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Gail Tappan, who watched it sing, noted the yellow lower mandible, and observed that it did not on any occasion wag its tail. The latest previous dates for Maryland are Oct. 31, 1950 and Oct. 19, 1901. Migratory flights of Blue Jays are noted each spring and autumn along many of the ridges, along the Fall Line, and on a broad front along the Western Shore Coastal Plain. The movement this fall, however, turned out to be the greatest on record. We wish we knew whether there was a correlation with the wanderings of any of the other irregular visitors. The first heavy flight was of 250 birds over White Marsh on Sept. 23 (Hackman), after which they rapidly built up to a spectacular peak. Half-hour early morning counts from my second floor deck on the Fall Line at Laurel gave a total of 2,975 Blue Jays during the 8-day period Sept. 28--Oct. 5, or an average of 744 jays per hour of observation. On the peak day, Sept. 29, the half hour total was 862. A similar movement was noted at Monkton by Steve Simon.

Chickadees. For the first time in recorded history three species of chickadees attracted attention in Maryland. We'll dispose of the resident Carolina Chickadee with a single example of their abundance; instead of the usual 2 or 3 individuals at my feeder during the winter, I fed 15 color-banded individuals. It is a credit to Maryland observers that so many people independently noted and reported the invasion of Black-capped Chickadees, without having had any warning that they were infiltrating the range of their Carolina relative. The first bird that arrived at the Richards' feeder in Emmitsburg on Oct. 20 was not far enough beyond the range of the species to arouse much curiosity. But on the 22nd one appeared at Gibson Island (Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Tappan), on the 23rd 10 were at the Richards' feeder and 7 at Lake Roland (Buchanan), on the 24th 8 arrived at Laurel (Robbins), and by the 26th they were found at Monkton (Simon). About 50 of the visitors received bird bands from Maryland cooperators in the first month and a half of their stay. The presence of this species on 10 of the 11 Maryland

Christmas Counts attests to its widespread distribution through the State. The first Maryland record of a Brown-capped Chickadee was made on Dec. 12 at Rockville (Paul DuMont and Karl Stecher); the specimen was collected seven days later by Robert Stewart.

Nuthatches. We have little information on the flight of White-breasted Nuthatches, as they are fairly common permanent residents in all parts of the State except the Coastal Plain. All we can say at this time is that they were unusually common this fall. The little Red-breasted Nuthatch, on the other hand, always brings plenty of comment. When Red-breasts start arriving in early September or late August, it's a safe bet that we'll have good numbers during the autumn months. Bird number one was encountered at Laurel on Sept. 1 (Robbins); on the next day another was sighted in Charles County (Stickley), and still another went aboard Winter Quarter Lightship off the Virginia coast (Robert McCartney).

Wrens, Thrushes, Shrikes. The departure record for the House Wren was smashed on Nov. 13 when Charlie Buchanan spotted one at Loch Raven; since this is a Piedmont location there is little likelihood of it being a wintering individual. Across the Bay at Denton the Fletchers had a Bewick's Wren on tap from Oct. 8 through the end of the period--the first Caroline County record, and one of the few for the entire Eastern Shore. Another winter record for this species was obtained at Jane Tuttrup's feeding station near Derwood, where Steve Simon and Dick Dubois discovered it in her absence on the Triadelphia Christmas Count. A third Bewick's spent the afternoon of Nov. 23 in the garden of Mrs. R. B. Green in Hagerstown, breaking by one day the fall departure extreme for transients of this species. The first winter Hermit Thrush to be reported from the Allegheny Plateau was discovered at Cranesville Swamp on Dec. 31 by Burnie Miller; identification was confirmed by Helen Miller. Another Hermit Thrush seen on Sept. 21 at Emmitsburg is the second earliest fall arrival for Maryland (Richards). Olive-backed Thrushes seemed loath to leave Maryland this fall. As many as 11 Olive-backs were among an inundation of thrushes that descended upon Gibson Island on Oct. 22, two days past the latest Maryland departure in the files (Col. and Mrs. U. Amoss, Mrs. W. L. Henderson, Mrs. Gail Tappan). One was seen there as late as the 26th. Then, on Nov. 7 Dick Kleen sank the Gibson Island records by finding no less than 3 Olive-backs at Tilghman, Talbot County. A Northern Shrike was identified by Elmer Worthley near Bittinger on Dec. 31; 2 or 3 other shrikes, probably of this species, were reported by other observers.

Warblers. Since warblers are comparatively well summarized in the tables, this paragraph will be devoted to giving details on record and near-record arrival and departure dates. The only arrival date to fall was that for the Myrtle Warbler; it was superseded by Marvin Hewitt's Aug. 27 observation of 2 birds at Henderson. A Connecticut Warbler near Seneca on Sept. 10 (Philip DuMont) missed tying the record by one day. The Connecticut, by the way, was added to the Caroline County list by observations at Greensboro, Sept. 22 (Hewitt) and at Denton, Oct. 17 (Mrs. A. J. Fletcher). Charlie Buchanan's Lake Roland Nashville Warbler on Oct. 23 is the second latest known for Maryland. Black-throated Green Warblers were late at four separate locations: Oct. 23 at Emmitsburg (Richards) and Lake Roland (Buchanan), Oct. 24 at Laurel (Robbins), and Oct. 31 at Mitchellville (Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Page); the latest previous dates were Oct. 31, 1953 and Oct. 22, 1890. Except for a few wintering dates, the latest Yellow-breasted Chat date is Nov. 1, 1944. Two 1954 reports now take second and third place: Oct. 14 at Greenbelt (Lewis Oring) and Oct. 11 at Emmitsburg (Richards). We also wish to put in print new departure extremes for the Cerulean Warbler,

Sept. 25 near Seneca (Philip DuMont), for the Kentucky Warbler, Sept. 20 at Henderson (Hewitt), and for the Prairie Warbler, Nov. 19 at Denton (Mrs. A. J. Fletcher).

Finches and Sparrows. Allen Stickley's Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Port Tobacco, Aug. 29, is the second earliest for the Free State. A

Table 1. Fall arrival dates, 1954

	<u>Fred- erick</u>	<u>Balti- more</u>	<u>Prince George</u>	<u>Anne Arund.</u>	<u>Caro- line</u>
Pied-billed Grebe	9/8	--	--	10/3	9/8
Little Blue Heron	0	--	8/11	8/15	8/5
Canada Goose	--	9/12	10/7	10/6	10/5
Mourning Hawk	8/28	--	8/29	--	8/18
Nighthawk	8/18	8/3	8/20	--	8/22
Black-capped Chickadee	10/20	10/23	10/24	10/22	12/3
White-breasted Nuthatch	9/14	--	10/9	9/23	10/20
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9/18	9/15	9/1	9/11	9/6
Brown Creeper	10/14	10/3	10/6	10/12	10/18
Winter Wren	11/1	10/2	10/10	--	--
Hermit Thrush	9/21	10/9	10/2	10/22	10/24
Olive-backed Thrush	9/16	9/4	9/1	10/5	9/13
Gray-cheeked Thrush	9/21	9/26	9/28	10/3	9/20
Golden-crowned Kinglet	10/16	10/5	10/7	10/20	10/5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9/29	9/26	10/3	10/20	9/28
Cedar Waxwing	--	--	8/24	8/21	9/27
Tennessee Warbler	9/21	8/28	9/29	9/2	9/12
Nashville Warbler	10/6	9/13	9/19	0	0
Magnolia Warbler	8/28	8/28	9/23	9/20	9/11
Cape May Warbler	9/10	8/28	9/19	--	9/13
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	--	8/28	8/23	9/21	9/14
Myrtle Warbler	9/26	9/25	10/3	10/22	8/27
Black-thr. Green Warbler	9/11	9/15	9/19	--	9/12
Blackburnian Warbler	9/8	8/22	--	--	9/6
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/8	8/27	8/29	--	--
Bay-breasted Warbler	9/16	9/4	--	--	9/17
Black-poll Warbler	9/25	9/13	10/8	--	--
Yellow Palm Warbler	10/16	--	--	10/17	10/21
Northern Water-thrush	--	8/14	9/4	--	8/19
Canada Warbler	9/8	8/22	8/22	--	--
Baltimore Oriole	8/28	--	8/13	--	--
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9/14	9/17	--	9/1	--
Evening Grosbeak	10/30	10/22	10/23	12/11	0
Purple Finch	10/4	9/17	9/25	--	--
Pine Siskin	10/23	10/21	10/17	10/20	10/21
Slate-colored Junco	10/4	9/26	10/3	9/21	9/25
Tree Sparrow	11/6	--	11/7	--	--
White-crowned Sparrow	10/10	10/9	10/12	10/20	11/1
White-throated Sparrow	9/26	9/27	10/5	9/21	10/4

Dickcissel in a cohort of English Sparrows at the Richards' Emmitsburg feeder on Nov. 18 is only the fifth fall departure date on file for this now mid-western species. Evening Grosbeaks were widely reported, but contrary to their usual practice, stayed clear of Maryland feeding stations. First arrivals were on Oct. 22 (75 at Monkton by Simon), Oct. 23 (19 at Lake Roland by Buchanan; 13 at Mount Pleasant, Baltimore by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lubbert; 3 at Laurel by Robbins), and Oct. 24 (a

Table 2. Fall departure dates, 1954

	<u>Fred- erick</u>	<u>Balti- more</u>	<u>Prince George</u>	<u>Anne Arund.</u>	<u>Caro- line</u>
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	10/29	11/12	11/3	10/17	11/6
Black-billed Cuckoo	—	10/3	—	10/1	0
Chimney Swift	10/15	10/19	10/16	10/5	10/12
Eastern Kingbird	9/11	—	8/29	9/21	9/7
Crested Flycatcher	—	9/13	8/22	9/21	9/14
Eastern Wood Pewee	10/2	9/26	10/7	11/4	10/12
Tree Swallow	9/18	—	8/29	—	10/22
Purple Martin	9/26	—	10/7	9/21	9/7
House Wren	10/5	11/13	10/4	10/27	—
Catbird	10/21	11/7	10/20	10/31	10/29
Brown Thrasher	10/13	—	10/24	10/28	10/16
Wood Thrush	9/17	12/3	10/4	10/22	10/6
Olive-backed Thrush	9/26	10/17	10/21	10/26	9/28
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9/10	9/11	8/13	9/20	9/22
White-eyed Vireo	—	9/18	9/28	9/12	9/23
Yellow-throated Vireo	9/8	10/2	9/6	9/21	0
Red-eyed Vireo	9/12	10/23	—	10/16	10/5
Black & White Warbler	9/11	9/26	8/29	10/3	10/5
Parula Warbler	9/16	10/2	10/7	10/3	9/20
Magnolia Warbler	10/16	10/17	10/3	10/21	10/4
Cape May Warbler	10/12	10/16	10/26	9/21	10/20
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	10/3	10/2	10/7	—	9/24
Black-thr. Green Warbler	10/23	10/23	10/31	9/21	9/28
Blackburnian Warbler	9/29	10/16	—	—	9/12
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/21	10/2	—	9/21	10/5
Bay-breasted Warbler	10/2	10/2	—	9/21	10/8
Black-poll Warbler	10/7	10/17	10/27	—	10/21
Oven-bird	10/16	9/26	10/2	9/21	9/30
Yellow-throat	10/5	10/17	10/10	—	12/7
Yellow-breasted Chat	10/11	—	10/14	9/13	9/16
Canada Warbler	9/28	9/17	—	9/12	9/28
American Redstart	10/5	10/3	9/28	10/3	9/25
Bobolink	9/18	—	10/10	—	9/18
Baltimore Oriole	11/13	—	9/1	9/2	9/23
Scarlet Tanager	9/26	10/17	10/7	9/12	9/13
Summer Tanager	0	0	0	9/12	9/17
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9/27	10/9	10/8	9/22	9/22
Indigo Bunting	10/3	10/9	10/9	9/13	10/4

few at Patuxent by Stewart). Migrating birds reached a peak of 72 at Laurel on Nov. 6. Relatively few birds remained in our State through the winter--except in Garrett County where small bunches totaling 80 individuals were noted on Dec. 31. The few Maryland reports of Pine Grosbeaks were considerably augmented this season. The first 2 birds were seen at Monument Knob on Nov. 6 by Robert J. Beaton. Subsequent fall reports were of single birds at Laurel, Nov. 22 (Robbins) and at Catoclin Mountain, Nov. 23 (Stewart). On the Christmas Counts we found 9 between Cranesville and Friendsville (Robbins and Ralph K. Bell) and 6 at Cunningham Falls and Catoclin Furnace (Mrs. R. S. Stauffer, Robbins). Two White-winged Crossbills stopped briefly at Laurel on Nov. 13 (Robbins), and 2 others were at Triadelphia Reservoir, Nov. 24 (Low). There was a good flight of Pine Siskins. A Red Crossbill in Garrett County, Dec. 31 (Richard Cole) rounded out the list of northern finches, except for the redpolls, which went unrecorded. The rare sparrow of the season was an adult Lark Sparrow near the North Beach Coast Guard Station on Assateague Island on Sept. 7 (Dr. and Mrs. Richard Riesz). Seth Low discovered 45 Snow Buntings feeding in the bed of Triadelphia Reservoir on Dec. 16; they obligingly remained for the Dec. 26 Christmas Count, but were not seen thereafter.

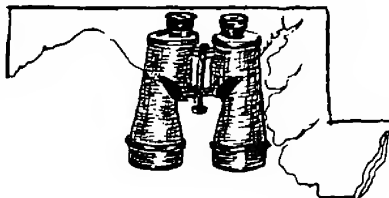
Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel

1955-1956 PAID LECTURE SERIES
Baltimore Club

This season's lecture series consists of two lectures which are being presented by well known National Audubon Society professionals:

November 30, 1955, Wednesday. Robert Hermes' "Once Upon an Island."
March 16, 1956, Friday. Walter H. Shackleton's "Rhapsody in Bluegrass."

FIELD



TRIPS

Summary of 1955 Saturday Morning "Bird Walks," April 16 - May 21

Charles M. Buchanan

In 1954 the idea of Saturday morning bird walks in and around Baltimore during the spring migration was originated. Seven locations were chosen for coverage, and it was decided that 6 consecutive Saturdays would be sufficient to include the peak of the migration season. These walks were renewed in 1955 with some modifications. The seven locations were reduced to the three present locations at Wyman Park, Lake Roland and Loch Raven, which seemed to be among the most popular in 1954 and which were productive birding areas in town, on the outskirts, and in the country, respectively. The six-Saturday schedule was retained, dating from April 16 to May 21, with the exception of May 14, which was in conflict with the State-wide meeting at Ocean City. The leaders were Mr. & Mrs. Jim Travis for Wyman Park, Mrs. Robert Keesner with Mrs. Carl Lubbert assisting at Lake Roland, and Charles Buchanan at Loch Raven. The starting time was set at 7:00 A.M. for all

three points, and a minimum of two hours time in the field was asked. On May 21, the only report received was from Wyman Park.

The purpose of the walks is a twofold one: (1) to give the less experienced birders a chance to get into the field conveniently and frequently under the guidance of capable leaders; and (2) to supply additional data on spring migration in the Baltimore area. With regard to the first part of the plan, it is very gratifying to note that 40 people took part in the walks on at least one of the five Saturdays. The results of the migration records are highlighted briefly in the following paragraphs. In many cases arrival dates reported on the walks represent the earliest ones for the area in 1955.

April 16 - Wyman Park had 35 species in 2½ hours, including one of the earliest Yellow Palm Warblers of the season, a rather unlikely bird--an Osprey, and the only Fish Crow. Lake Roland, 36 species in 2 hours, had only 2 birds not seen elsewhere, a White-breasted Nuthatch and a Hermit Thrush. Loch Raven, 44 species in 3 hours, had the first White-eyed Vireo reported, an early Louisiana Water-thrush and Chipping Sparrows in good numbers. All three walks reported Broad-winged Hawks migrating. Aggregate species total, 55.

April 23 - Wyman Park, 40 species in 3 hours, had a good early date for Black-throated Green Warbler, the only Sparrow Hawk, Belted Kingfisher and Brown Creeper. Lake Roland, 48 species in 4 hours, had 9 Yellow Warblers and a Redstart, and nests for Robin, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Louisiana Water-thrush. Loch Raven, 45 species in 2 ¾ hours, got the first Prairie Warbler reported, and a Phoebe nest. Two trips had House Wren. Aggregate species total, 64.

April 30 - The late season was delaying departing winter birds and holding up new arrivals, but the arrivals really began to make an appearance by this date. There was a heavy Blue Jay migration. Wyman Park, 41 species in 3½ hours, still reported Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush and Junco, and got the only Blue-headed Vireo. They shared a good Nashville Warbler record with Loch Raven. Lake Roland, 52 species in 3 hours, had 4 Evening Grosbeaks, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Kingbird, Scarlet Tanager, and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Loch Raven, 61 species in 3½ hours, had 14 Canada Geese, Tree Swallows, Oven-bird and Baltimore Oriole, and discovered a Barn Swallow's nest. Aggregate species total, 79.

May 7 - Spring migration reached a climax with a large variety of warblers, and this day's total was 24 species. Wyman Park, 54 species in 2½ hours, had Nashville, Magnolia and Canada Warblers and an Olive-backed Thrush. Lake Roland, 62 species in 2 ¾ hours, had the only Least Flycatcher and Warbling Vireo, breeding species peculiar to that area, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blackburnian and Kentucky Warblers. Loch Raven, 67 species in 3½ hours, always has Black and Wood Ducks and this time added Blue-winged Teal. Also seen were Spotted and Solitary Warblers. All three trips had the Cape May Warbler. Aggregate species total, 91.

May 21 - Only Wyman Park reported, 50 species in 2½ hours, with such lingering transients as Olive-backed Thrush, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Black-poll and Wilson's Warblers and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Aggregate species total, April 16 - May 21, 108

104 West Melrose Ave., Baltimore 10.

COMING EVENTS

- Nov. 4 Baltimore Club monthly meeting. Dr. Charles Stine, "Maryland Herpetology." Pratt Library, BALTIMORE, 8 p.m.
 5 BLACKWATER REFUGE waterbird hike by Talbot Club.
 7 Harford Club monthly meeting. BEL AIR Library, 8 p.m.
 9 FREDERICK Club monthly meeting.
 12 BLACKWATER REFUGE waterbird trip, Baltimore and Annapolis Clubs
 Leader Richard L. Kleen. Baltimore reservations HU6-3442.
 13 SUSQUEHANNA FLATS boat trip by Harford Club. 1 p.m.
 18 Talbot Club monthly meeting. EASTON High School, 8 p.m.
 20 CHARLESTOWN and PERRY POINT trip, Baltimore and Harford Clubs.
 Leader Rodney Jones, HU6-3442. Meet Highland Ave. & Pulaski Highway, 8 a.m., and Perry Point guard house, 9:30 a.m.
 20 BAY HUNDRED waterfowl hike by Talbot Club. Leader R. L. Kleen.
 20 Hillsmere Shores, ANNAPOLIS by Annapolis Club, 3 p.m. AN3-2575.
 28 Caroline Club monthly meeting. Denton, 8 p.m.
 30 BALTIMORE Screen Tour. Robert C. Hermes, "Once upon an Island." Museum of Art, Charles & 31st Sts., 8 p.m.
- Dec. 2 ANNAPOLIS meeting to organize Christmas Count. Annapolis Public Library, 7:30 p.m.
 6 Harford Club monthly meeting. Movie, "Bob-white through the Year," at visual aids room, ABERDEEN High School, 8 p.m.
 11 SANDY POINT waterfowl hike. Light & Redwood Sts., Balto., 8 a.m.
 14 FREDERICK Club monthly meeting.
 16 BALTIMORE Club monthly meeting. Edwin M. Barry of Maryland Game and Inland Fish Commission. Pratt Library, 8 p.m.
 18 Preliminary DENTON Christmas Count, Caroline County.
 24 DENTON Christmas Count (sponsored by Caroline Club).
 27 TRIADELPHIA RESERVOIR Christmas Count (Takoma, Baltimore, Fred'k).
 28 OCEAN CITY Christmas Count (all clubs).
 28 BLACKWATER and Elliott Island Christmas Count (all clubs).
 29 ST. MICHAELS Christmas Count (sponsored by Talbot Club).
 31 CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN Christmas Count (sponsor, Frederick Club).
- Jan. 1 ANNAPOLIS Christmas Count (sponsored by Annapolis & Baltimore).
 2 POINT LOOKOUT Christmas Count, southern St. Marys County.

